

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MT
SUBJECT: FENECH ADAMI SUCCEEDS BORG OLIVIER AS OPPOSITION LEADER

REF: VALLETTA 0081,

1. FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF DR. GIORGIO BORG OLIVIER, DR. EDWARD (EDDIE) FENECH ADAMI WAS OFFICIALLY APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA ON APRIL 11 AS LEADER OF THE MALTESE NATIONALIST PARTY AND LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN MALTA'S UNICAMERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A 43-YEAR-OLD LAWYER, DR. FENECH ADAMI IS THE FIRST NEW LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY SINCE 1950. THE FORMER LEADER, DR. BORG OLIVIER WILL RETAIN HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AS A BACK-BENCHER, BUT HE IS NOT EXPECTED TO EXERCISE MUCH INFLUENCE ON FUTURE POLICIES.

2. A NEW DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY,
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DR. GUIDO DEMARCO, A 46-YEAR-OLD LAWYER, ALSO HAS BEEN FORMALLY INSTALLED TO REPLACE THE FORMER DEPUTY LEADER, DR. VINCENT TABONE.

3. AND TO COMPLETE A CLEAN SWEEP OF THE TOP PARTY POSITIONS, DR. LOUIS GALEA, A 29-YEAR-OLD FORMER YOUTH LEADER (WHO WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN SEPTEMBER

1976) HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE NEW GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

4. COMMENT: THIS NEW TEAM HAS PLEDGED ITSELF TO A REINVIGORATION OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF BORG OLIVIER'S AGING AND INEFFECTUAL LEADERSHIP. THIS THEY MAY ACCOMPLISH, BUT WHETHER THEY CAN DO ENOUGH TO OVERCOME MINTOFF AND HIS LABORITES AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IS A VERY OPEN QUESTION. FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, MINTOFF PERSONALLY HAS SO DOMINATED THE NATIONALISTS IN PARLIAMENT THAT THEIR RECORD AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY HAS BECOME BADLY TARNISHED. BOTH DR. FENECH ADAMI AND DR. DEMARCO VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT YEARS AS IVP GRANTEES, AND DR. GALEA HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR A GRANT DURING FY-1977. LAINGEN

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Message Attributes

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